Desert Harvest Solar Farm

Toward a safe, clean energy future: The Desert Harvest Solar Farm would generate up to 150 megawatts on public lands in Riverside County, California, six miles north of Desert Center, CA. The project is located within the Riverside East Solar Energy Zone.

VITALS

Location: Riverside East Solar Energy Zone,

Riverside County, California

Technology: Photovoltaic with single-axis tracking **Electricity production capacity:** 150 megawatts **Company:** EDF Renewable Energy (San Diego, CA))



BY THE NUMBERS – the project is expected to:

- ✓ Generate enough electricity to power approximately 45,000 homes.
- ✓ Create 250 construction jobs and about 8 permanent operation jobs.
- ✓ Displace more than 92,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases per year, equal to taking about 20,000 cars off the road.
- ✓ Encompass 1,208 acres of public land. The BLM oversees nearly 1.6 million acres in Riverside County, including more than 225,000 acres managed for conservation.
- ✓ Connect with the Red Bluff Substation via a 230-kV line, feeding power from the Desert Harvest Solar Farm to the Southern California Edison regional transmission grid.
- ✓ Provide economic stimulus: facility payroll; increased purchases of local goods and services during construction and long-term operation; increased sales tax revenue; and additional demand for local housing.

STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND MITIGATION: The BLM worked closely with federal, state and local partners, members of the environmental and conservation community and interested stakeholders to advance an environmentally sound project.

- ✓ **Efficient design**: The BLM approved a solar technology that will produce more electricity for the same amount of ground disturbance.
- ✓ **Water Conservation**: BLM added requirements to ensure that the project will not contribute to overdraft of the local groundwater basin.
- ✓ Wildlife Protection: EDF will be required to purchase more than 2,000 acres to compensate for habitat loss. The purchased land will support desert tortoise, desert dry wash woodland, and other sensitive resources.

- ✓ **National Park Service Mitigation**: Under an agreement reached with the National Park Service, EDF Renewable Energy will reduce dust, noise, and nighttime lighting impacts on Joshua Tree National Park and provide signage and other infrastructure to protect the park boundary near the project.
- ✓ **Smaller Footprint:** The project's infrastructure will be concentrated with that of a nearby solar project, minimizing new ground disturbance.

A SMART, COLLABORATIVE PROCESS: Since 2009, the Bureau of Land Management has been committed to helping the nation reach its clean energy future by guaranteeing coordinated processing, full environmental analysis and public review for specific renewable energy projects where the company demonstrated it was ready to advance to the formal environmental review and public participation process. Working together, the State of California and the Department of the Interior have also established a unique partnership through the Renewable Energy Policy Group and Renewable Energy Action Team to align federal and state permitting and environmental review processes.

THE BIG PICTURE: Secretary Salazar established a Department-wide goal to complete the environmental reviews for 10,000 MW of renewable energy by 2012. The Department surpassed this goal and, to date, has approved more than 11,500 MW on public lands. The State of California is working to achieve a 33% Renewable Portfolio Standard by 2025. The Desert Harvest Solar Project will strengthen the Department's and the State of California's renewable energy portfolios and will help bring California and the nation one step closer to a clean energy economy.